

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A wireless base station which is connected to a plurality of wireless terminals and provides a multicasting service for the plurality of wireless terminals, the wireless base station comprising:

a transmitter unit configured to transmit a first message to neighboring wireless base stations;

a receiver unit configured to ~~transmit~~ receive a second message from the neighboring wireless base stations;

a message processing unit configured to extract a multicast-related control data from the second message received by the receiver unit, the multicast-related control data indicting multicasting service states of the neighboring wireless base stations;

a determination unit configured to determine whether the wireless base station provides the multicasting service for the plurality of wireless terminals, based on the multicasting service states of the neighboring base stations indicated by the multicast-related control data extracted by the message processing unit; and

a message generating unit configured to generate the first message that is indicative of a determination result by the determination unit, and sending the first message to the transmitter unit so that the transmitter unit transmits the first message,

wherein the wireless base station determines autonomously whether the wireless base station provides the multicasting service for the plurality of wireless terminals.

Claim 2 (Original): The wireless base station as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the determination as to whether the wireless base station provides the multicasting service is made for each of a plurality of multicasting service groups.

Claim 3 (Original): The wireless base station as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the determination as to whether the wireless base station provides the multicasting service is made based on a magnitude of a service area in which the wireless base station can provide the multicasting service for the plurality of wireless terminals.

Claim 4 (Original): The wireless base station as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the determination as to whether the wireless base station provides the multicasting service is made based on whether the wireless base station has an overlapping service area.

Claim 5 (Original): The wireless base station as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the determination as to whether the wireless base station provides the multicasting service is made based on a service state of a neighboring wireless base station.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The wireless base station as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that each of the wireless terminals which are connected to the neighboring wireless base station sends a state signal indicating ~~the~~ a service state of one of the neighboring wireless base ~~station~~ stations.

Claim 7 (Original): The wireless base station as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the determination as to whether the wireless base station provides the multicasting service is made based on a hop number of the wireless base station.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The wireless base station as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ further comprising:

~~a transmitting~~ means for transmitting a first state signal to at least one of the a neighboring wireless base ~~station~~ stations, the first state signal indicating a multicasting service state of the wireless base station; and

~~a receiving~~ means for receiving a second state signal from the at least one of the neighboring wireless base ~~station~~ stations, the second state signal indicating a multicasting service state of the at least one of the neighboring wireless base ~~station~~ stations.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A wireless base station which is connected to a control station and a plurality of wireless terminals and provides a multicasting service for the plurality of wireless terminals, characterized in the wireless base station comprising:

a transmitting unit configured to transmit ~~means for transmitting~~ a first state signal to the control station, the first state signal indicating a multicasting service state of the wireless base station; and

a receiving unit configured to receive ~~means for receiving~~ a second state signal from the control station, the second state signal indicating a multicasting service ~~state~~ states of a the neighboring wireless base ~~station~~ stations,

wherein the wireless base station determines whether the wireless base station provides the multicasting service, for the plurality of wireless terminals, based on the multicasting service states of the neighboring wireless base stations indicated by a multicast-related control data extracted from the second state signal ~~by the receiving means~~.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A method of selecting a wireless base station for a wireless terminal, the wireless base station providing a multicasting service for the wireless terminal, comprising:

detecting whether the wireless terminal can receive same multicasting information from a plurality of wireless base stations;

determining a number of wireless terminals to which the same multicasting information is being transmitted by each of the plurality of wireless base stations; and

selecting one of the plurality of wireless base stations based on the number of wireless terminals determined in the determining step, so as to make a number of the wireless base stations that transmit the same multicasting information as small as possible,

wherein, when there is a first wireless base station that is connectable to the wireless terminal and transmitting the same multicasting information to the wireless terminal, the wireless terminal selects the first wireless base station and is connected to the first wireless base station.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that, when there are a plurality of first wireless base stations which are connectable to the wireless terminal and sending the same multicasting information to the wireless terminal, the wireless terminal selects one of the plurality of first wireless base stations such that the selected first wireless base station has a largest number of wireless terminals connected thereto, and the wireless terminal being connected to the selected first wireless base station.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the selected wireless base station provides the multicasting service for the wireless terminal.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A The wireless base station as claimed in claim 1 ~~which provides a multicasting service for a wireless terminal, characterized in that, wherein,~~ when ~~the~~ a wireless terminal selects one of a ~~the~~ plurality of wireless base stations so as to make the number of the wireless base stations that send identical multicasting information as small as possible, the wireless base station determines that the wireless base station provides a the multicasting service for the wireless terminal.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A The wireless base station as claimed in claim 1, ~~which provides a multicasting service for a wireless terminal, characterized in comprising~~ wherein the wireless base station further comprises a counter in which a count value is incremented when a join message from the wireless terminal is received at the wireless base station, and decremented when a leave message from the wireless terminal is received at the wireless base station, wherein the wireless base station transmits the count value of the counter to the wireless terminal.

Claim 18 (Original): The wireless base station as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the wireless base station transmits a renewed count value of the counter to the wireless terminal each time the count value is renewed.

Claim 19 (Original): The wireless base station as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the wireless base station stops providing the multicasting service for the wireless terminal when the count value of the counter is equal to zero.

Claim 20 (Original): A wireless terminal which receives a multicasting service provided by a wireless base station, characterized in comprising:

an analysis unit determining the number of wireless terminals connected to a multicast group, based on a received control data; and a comparison unit determining whether the determined number is larger than the number of wireless terminals currently connected to the base station,

wherein the wireless terminal selects one of connection of the wireless terminal to the base station and disconnection of the wireless terminal from the base station based on the result of the determination of the comparison unit, so as to make the number of wireless base stations that send identical multicasting information as small as possible.